

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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-----172308Z 049936 /12
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 113281

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. HERewith EXCERPTS OF PANAMA-RELATED TOPICS COVERED IN
NOON PRESS BRIEFING MONDAY, MAY 16.

"I HAVE A VERY BRIEF REMARK TO MAKE ON THE PANAMA CANAL
NEGOTIATIONS. OUR NEGOTIATORS EXPECT THEIR COUNTERPARTS TO
RETURN AND RESUME THIS ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE
NEXT FEW DAYS--OUR TEAM IS GOING THROUGH THE SAME INTRICATE-
PROCESS OF CONSULTATION HERE AS THE PANAMANIAN GROUP IS--OR
GOES THROUGH PERIODICALLY WITH ITS GOVERNMENT. ONE OF THE
THREE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS HAS REMAINED IN WASHINGTON
DOING WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS TECHNICAL HOMEWORK WITH HIS
AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS. IN ADDITION, A TWO-MAN PANAMANIAN
TECHNICAL TEAM IS ON ITS WAY TO WASHINGTON TO ASSIST WHEN
THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESUMED. THAT'S ABOUT THE EXTENT OF
IT."

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Q: WITH YOUR EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AND YOUR ACQUAINTANCE
WITH DIPLOMATIC HISTORY, DO YOU KNOW OF ANY INSTANCE WHERE
A TREATY NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ANY OTHER
COUNTRY HAS GONE ON FOR TEN YEARS WITHOUT BEING SETTLED?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING
ON FOR TEN YEARS. WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT NEGOTIATING

THAT LONG BUT THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS--I'M NOT SURE THAT THEY'VE BEEN GOING ON TEN YEARS.

Q: YOU SAID THAT NEW MEMBERS ARE JOINING THE PANAMANIAN DELEGATION. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THEY'RE CLOSE TO SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT?

A: I CAN'T DRAW ANY CONCLUSION FROM THAT. I'M JUST PASSING IT ON AS A TIDBIT OF INFORMATION.

Q: YOU SUGGESTED A PARALLEL BETWEEN THEIR CONSULTATIONS IN PANAMA AND THE CONSULTATIONS OF AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS HERE. SINCE WE PRESUME THEY WENT BACK TO TALK TO THE TOP MAN IN THEIR COUNTRY, CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THE AMERICA- NEGOTIATORS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER?

A: I CAN'T I DON'T KNOW WHO AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ HAVE BEEN TALKING TO, BUT CERTAINLY THEY'VE BEEN KEEPING THE SECRETARY OF STATE FULLY INFORMED-- AND I'M SURE THE PRESIDENT ALSO, THROUGH THE NSC--BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY.

Q: WHAT ABOUT BRZENINSKI? WHO EXACTLY IS INVOLVED IN THEIR CONSULTATIONS?

A: THE NSC KEEPS VERY CLOSE TRACK OF WHAT'S GOING ON ON A DAILY BASIS; SO I FEEL SURE THAT THEY KEEP THE NSC FIRMLY UNCLASSIFIED

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ADVISED AND THROUGH THE NSC THE PRESIDENT. HE STAYS UP ON THIS SUBJECT." CHRISTOPHER

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